Message Text

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MPOL

 $SUBJECT: TRANSATLANTIC\ DIALOGUE\ (TAD)$

REFS: (A) USNATO 3113, DTG 241311Z MAR 78 (B) USNATO 3007, DTG 221307Z MAR 78; (C) USNATO 3185, DTG 281748Z MAR 78; (D) USNATO 3170, DTG 281434Z MAR 78 (NOTAL)

 ${\it 1. MISSIONS SHOULD APPROACH FOREIGN AND/OR DEFENSE MINISCONFIDENTIAL}$

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TRIES AT THE DEPUTY MINISTER OR PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY LEVEL TO MAKE FOLLOW-UP REPRESENTATIONS FOR THE US-CANADIAN PROPOSAL ON THE TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE ON NATO ARMS COOPERATION MADE AT THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING IN THE DIALOGUE ON MARCH 20 (REFS A AND B). OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO TRY TO BRING THE BROADER PERSPECTIVES OF THE SUB-CABINET LEVEL IN THESE SELECTED INDEPENDENT

EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP (IEPG) CAPITALS TO BEAR ON THE POSITIONS THAT IEPG NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS (NADS) WILL TAKE TO THEIR MEETING IN ROME APRIL 3-4. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING DR. WILLIAM PERRY IS MAKING FOLLOW-UP REPRESENTATIONS TO HIS BRITISH, FRG, AND FRENCH COUNTERPARTS. THE FRENCH ARE APPARENTLY THE MAJOR HURDLE (REFS C AND D)

IN GAINING ACCEPTANCE OF THE US-CANADIAN PROPOSAL, VERSUS CONFINING THE DIALOGUE TO DISMANTLING LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OBSTACLES IN THE US AND CANADIAN MARKETS TO INCREASED EUROPEAN DEFENSE EQUIPMENT SALES.

- 2. MISSIONS SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
- -- AS PRESIDENT CARTER STATED AT LAST MAY'S NATO SUMMIT, THE US WANTS TO PURSUE IMPROVED TRANSATLANTIC ARMAMENTS COOPERATION IN ORDER (A) TO STRENGTHEN NATO

MILITARILY BY WELDING ITS INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL FORCES INTO AN EFFECTIVE COALITION DEFENSE, (B) TO SOLIDIFY THE ALLIANCE POLITICALLY BY REDUCING FRICTIONS OVER WHO IS TO DEVELOP AND PRODUCE DEFENSE EQUIPMENT AND WHERE IT IS TO BE SOLD, AND (C) TO BOLSTER THE ALLIANCE ECONOMICALLY BY PUTTING TRANSATLANTIC DEFENSE TRADE ON A STABLE LONG-TERM BASIS, BY BROADENING NATO'S CONFIDENTIAL

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INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL BASE, AND BY USING ALLIANCE RESOURCES MORE EFFICIENTLY.

- -- THE US STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT THESE OBJECTIVES CAN BEST BE SERVED, INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY, BY A TAD THAT ADDRESSES ALL THE ISSUES INCLUDED IN THE USCANADIAN PROPOSAL, AND MUST NOT BE CONFINED SOLELY TO LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OBSTACLES OF ACCESS TO THE NORTH AMERICAN MARKET.
- -- THE US HOLDS THAT THIS BROADER FOCUS IS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO MAKE HEADWAY ON SPECIFIC PROGRAMS. IT ALSO WILL IMPROVE THE LIKELIHOOD OF ADEQUATE SUPPORT FROM CONGRESS, INDUSTRY, AND INCREASED OFFSHORE BUYS OF EQUIPMENT IN THE INTEREST OF IMPROVING NATO'S DEFENSES.
- -- THIS BROADER FOCUS WILL ALSO FACILITATE SUBSTANTIALLY THE US WILLINGNESS TO IMPROVE THE SHARING OF TECHNOLOGY WITH ITS ALLIES, AND TO EXPLORE WAYS TO PROMOTE DEFENSE INDUSTRY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND ITS ALLIES.

| IN SUM, WE BELIVE THE IEPG OBJECTION OF GREATER |
|--|
| ACCESS TO THE NORTH AMERICAN MARKET AS WELL AS |
| MUTUAL OBJECTIVES OF IMPROVING NATO'S CONVENTIONAL |
| CAPABILITY WILL BE BETTER SERVED BY THE BROADENED |
| DIALOGUE WE AND CANADA HAVE PROPOSED. |

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